

City of Pembroke Pines, FL

*City of Pembroke Pines
Charles F. Dodge City Center
601 City Center Way
Pembroke Pines, FL 33025*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

6:30 PM

Regular Commission Meeting, Item # 4 was pulled by Administration on 01/20/26, Item # 12 has been updated, and Exhibit # 17 for Item # 12 has been updated.

Commission Chambers

City Commission

***Mayor Angelo Castillo
Vice Mayor Michael A. Hernandez
Commissioner Thomas Good Jr.
Commissioner Maria Rodriguez
Commissioner Jay D. Schwartz***

6:30 PM REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Mayor Angelo Castillo, Vice Mayor Michael A. Hernandez, Commissioner Thomas Good Jr., Commissioner Maria Rodriguez, and Commissioner Jay D. Schwartz

Also present: City Manager Charles F. Dodge, City Attorney Samuel Goren, and City Clerk Gabriel Fernandez.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Eva Mercendett.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Anthem was performed by Eva Mercendett.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITEMS TO BE PULLED FROM AGENDA

4. **[ITEM PULLED BY ADMINISTRATION]** MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES AND RPW SOLUTIONS, LLC D/B/A BCG PENSION RISK CONSULTANTS ("BCG") EFFECTIVE ON THE DATE AGREEMENT IS EXECUTED BY BOTH PARTIES FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$165,000.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Schwartz took a point of personal privilege and shared that the City of Pembroke Pines had experienced a historic night when the President of the United States landed on Marine One at North Perry Airport. The Commissioner explained that preparations had taken place for more than a week and a half and that the event marked a first for both the city and the Broward County Aviation Department. Commissioner Schwartz noted that everything went smoothly and praised everyone involved for doing a fantastic job, specifically thanking the Pembroke Pines Police Department and all participating agencies for ensuring the event was conducted safely.

Mayor Castillo added that the Fire Department had specifically coordinated the President's arrival, and he expressed gratitude to the Fire Chief and his staff, as well as the Police Department and all others involved, for ensuring that the event proceeded so smoothly.

Mayor Castillo recounted that the previous Monday, Pembroke Pines held its first-ever Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade, accompanied by a beautiful commemoration in the plaza. He noted that all five officials were present and described the event as very touching and well organized. The Mayor thanked the Parks Department and others who helped make the event possible, explaining that they had long hoped to see a parade on this day in the city, though it had not been feasible the previous year. He expressed hope that the parade would become an annual tradition and reflected that, despite the cold, it had been a wonderful day, offering thanks to everyone involved.

PRESENTATIONS:

PRE-2 PRESENTATION NO. 2: PRESENTATION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA'S PEDREADY GOLD TIER RECOGNITION TO THE PEMBROKE PINES FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT. THIS ACHIEVEMENT REPRESENTS THE HIGHEST DESIGNATED AWARD ACKNOWLEDGING OUR READINESS TO RESPOND TO PEDIATRIC EMERGENCIES.

Mayor Castillo introduced the Pembroke Pines Fire Rescue Department, who had been awarded Florida's Pediatric Ready Gold Tier recognition.

Fire Chief Marcelino spoke about how the recognition represented the highest level of pediatric emergency preparedness in the state and followed a thorough evaluation of the department's training, equipment, policies, continuous quality improvement, and prevention programs. The evaluators found zero deficiencies and even requested Pembroke Pines' programs be used as best practices for other agencies. The Chief spoke about the importance of pediatric preparedness in a city with approximately 30 schools and over 50 daycare centers and credited the firefighters, professional staff, city commission, and staff for their contributions. Chief Marcelino presented a plaque to commemorate the achievement and concluded by thanking the Mayor and Commission for their support.

Mayor Castillo acknowledged that the recognition was a testament to the department's hard work and dedication.

- PRE-1** PRESENTATION NO. 1: MAYOR CASTILLO WILL PRESENT A PROCLAMATION TO LINDA WUNDER AND JENNIFER SANCHEZ FROM BARRY UNIVERSITY'S NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM RECOGNIZING JANUARY 18-24, 2026 AS CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETIST (CRNA) WEEK IN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES.

Mayor Castillo invited Laurie Tolson and Jennifer Sanchez to the podium and read a proclamation declaring National Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Week in Pembroke Pines. The Mayor recognized the CRNAs' vital role in providing safe, high-quality anesthesia care across all settings and patient ages. Mayor Castillo thanked the honorees and presented them with the proclamation.

One of the representatives from Barry University noted their role in training CRNAs who serve local hospitals and critical care facilities. The presentation concluded with the representatives taking a photo with the mayor to commemorate the occasion.

PRE-3

PRESENTATION NO. 3: MAYOR CASTILLO WILL PRESENT A PROCLAMATION TO RABBI ZALMAN RECOGNIZING JANUARY 27, 2026, AS INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY IN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES.

Mayor Castillo along with Commissioner Schwartz invited Rabbi Zalman to come forward and shared a video prior to his reading the proclamation. A video testimonial was presented featuring a Holocaust survivor who described personal experiences during the Holocaust, she emphasized the importance of remembrance and underscored the necessity of passing these stories from generation to generation to prevent history from repeating itself.

Mayor Castillo explained that the City had recorded and preserved Holocaust survivor testimonies from residents over the years and used them for educational purposes, particularly in schools, and shared them annually to ensure the Holocaust is never forgotten.

The Mayor then read a proclamation recognizing January 27, 2026, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day in the City of Pembroke Pines and called upon residents to observe the day in solemn remembrance and recommit to building a just and compassionate society.

Rabbi Zalman thanked the Mayor and City Commission for the proclamation and stated that he was deeply heartened by the City's support, particularly in light of recent events. He expressed appreciation for the City's welcoming environment and stated that Jewish residents, and all residents, felt safe in Pembroke Pines. He thanked Commissioner Schwartz and the entire Commission for their efforts in fostering an inclusive and safe community and expressed his desire for the Jewish community to continue contributing positively to the City.

Commissioner Schwartz shared personal remarks, stating that during a prior menorah lighting ceremony he had learned that members of his father's family perished in the Holocaust. He expressed the emotional impact of that discovery, emphasized the resilience of the Jewish people, and affirmed that the Jewish community was safe in Pembroke Pines. He thanked the Mayor for bringing forward the proclamation.

Mayor Castillo spoke by reaffirming that Pembroke Pines was a city where hatred, antisemitism, racism, and all forms of bigotry were not welcome. He emphasized the City's pride in its diversity and its

commitment to celebrating the best in all people. The Mayor thanked the Rabbi for his leadership within the faith community and invited him to future City events, including upcoming prayer breakfasts.

ITEMS AT THE REQUEST OF THE PUBLIC

Troy Wilson addressed the Mayor and Commission and read a statement expressing gratitude for the city's longstanding support of police officers and the FOP Pembroke Pines Lodge 197. He also read that officers, residents, and community members had gathered to support for Detective Scott Kushi and Sergeant Joel Cuarezma, whom the FOP believed had been unjustly treated while performing their union leadership roles. Mr. Wilson also read that a cooperative relationship between the city, police leadership, and employees was required by law under Florida Statute Chapter 447 and urged the commission to closely monitor the unresolved situation while remaining open to reasonable settlement solutions, concluding with a desire for continued positive working relationships with the city.

City Attorney Goren, interrupted to advise the Mayor and Commission for the record that while the public had a legal right to speak during public comment, the commission should not respond to the remarks made. Mr. Goren explained that this guidance was not out of disrespect but was necessary due to ongoing good faith bargaining and multiple pending legal matters. He stated that the issues raised were currently the subject of a federal lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida and a Chapter 447 impasse proceeding that would be heard by a state-appointed arbitrator under oath. City Attorney Goren emphasized that the commission members were not neutral decision-makers, judges, or arbitrators, but advocates for the city, and that all substantive discussions must occur in the appropriate legal forums mandated by state law. He urged the commission to refrain from commenting to protect the interests of all parties involved and concluded that his remarks constituted his best legal advice, offering to answer questions if necessary.

COMMISSION AUDITOR REPORT:

CA-1 UPDATE ON APPROVED 2026 AUDIT PLAN

Christy Clements introduced herself and Eddie Castaneda from Forvis Mazars and explained that they were presenting an updated internal audit plan. Ms. Clements stated that the Commission had previously approved the plan in October, with a revision to the utility billing audit to include the waste disposal billing process in its scope, and that the requested update had been completed. Ms. Clements also reported that two of the audits had already been started and the remaining audits were tentatively scheduled and were on track with the plan.

Mayor Castillo asked City Manager Dodge whether a vote was required on the item that evening, and Mr. Dodge clarified that no vote was needed because the item was only a presentation. The Mayor thanked the presenters for their work and congratulated Ms. Clements again on being named the Commission’s auditor.

- 17. COMMISSIONER MARIA RODRIGUEZ ITEM #1: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO DELEGATE THE VICE MAYOR TO REPRESENT THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES AT THE ROTARY CLUB MEETINGS AND THE MIRAMAR/PEMBROKE PINES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. THE DESIGNATION SHALL ROTATE ANNUALLY UPON THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW VICE MAYOR.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Vice Mayor Hernandez, to approve as amended naming the Vice Mayor the Ambassador to represent the City at the Rotary Club and the Miramar/Pembroke Pines Chamber of Commerce. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 5 - Mayor Castillo, Vice Mayor Hernandez, Commissioner Good Jr., Commissioner Rodriguez, and Commissioner Schwartz

Nay 0

Item 17 was taken out of order without objection.

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN:

Commissioner Rodriguez read Item 17 into the record by title and explained that the Commission could consider delegating the Vice Mayor to represent the City of Pembroke Pines at the Rotary Club meetings and events hosted by the Miramar-Pembroke Pines Chamber of Commerce. The Commissioner clarified that the designation would rotate annually with the appointment of a new vice mayor and was intended to establish a point of contact rather than to restrict attendance by other elected officials. She emphasized that all Commissioners were encouraged to participate in community events regardless of the designation.

Commissioner Good spoke on the item and asked whether the vice mayor's designation would require attendance at all such events. Mayor Castillo responded that the role was ceremonial and a point of contact rather than a substantive voting position like those at the MPO or the League of Cities. Mayor Castillo also mentioned that other Commissioners, including himself, had regularly attended such events and that the designation would not preclude others from attending.

Commissioner Good expressed concern that designating the vice mayor might create a perception of obligation to attend events that the vice mayor might be unable to attend due to other commitments.

Commissioner Rodriguez suggested that if the vice mayor could not attend a specific event, another Commissioner should be able to represent the City, similar to an existing practice when a Commissioner was unable to attend a scheduled event.

Mayor Castillo responded that the practice had been for Commissioners to cover for one another when unable to attend community events. The Mayor mentioned that the designation was intended as recognition to the organizations rather than a mandatory obligation and reiterated that attendance by the vice mayor was not required at every meeting. He also noted his commitment to speak at least once annually to the Rotary Club as part of the City's outreach.

Commissioner Schwartz agreed with supporting community involvement and noted that organizations might expect the named representative to attend regularly. He indicated his support for the concept and emphasized the importance of ensuring that the designation reflected the expectations of the organizations.

The following member of the public spoke on the item:

Alan Snyder, Board of Directors of the Rotary Club, 1730 SW 191st Street, Pembroke Pines, FL addressed the Commission that the Rotary appreciated the relationship with the City and explained that previous representatives had not always attended every meeting regularly, but that the designation had served as contact and had been beneficial. Mr. Snyder emphasized that there was no fixed commitment beyond the representative being a point of contact.

Discussions ensued regarding the previous delegates who have previously attended the meetings. Vice Mayor Hernandez commented on the Rotary Club meetings.

Commissioner Good acknowledged the comments and suggested a friendly amendment to the item to use the term “ambassador” instead of “delegate” to better describe the nature of the role as representative and point of contact.

APPEALS OF BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT DECISIONS:

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Vice Mayor Hernandez, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 5 - Mayor Castillo, Vice Mayor Hernandez, Commissioner Good Jr., Commissioner Rodriguez, and Commissioner Schwartz

Nay 0

1. MOTION TO APPROVE THE FIFTH AMENDMENT TO THE COMMISSION AUDITOR AGREEMENT WITH FORVIS MAZARS, LLP, APPOINTING CHRISTIE CLEMENTS AS THE COMMISSION AUDITOR AND UPDATING THE HOURLY RATES FOR 2026.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

2. MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A SEWER EQUIPMENT COMPANY OF AMERICA MODEL 900-ECO COMBINATION SEWER CLEANER TRUCK FROM JET-VAC EQUIPMENT COMPANY, LLC., IN A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$604,057.56, UTILIZING PRICING ESTABLISHED BY THE SOURCEWELL CONTRACT NO. 101221, PURSUANT TO SECTION 35.18(C)(6) OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

3. MOTION TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF CISCO SMARTNET TOTAL CARE FOR THE CITY'S CORE CISCO INFRASTRUCTURE HARDWARE IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$196,215.78 FROM NETSYNC UTILIZING THE STATE OF FLORIDA ALTERNATE CONTRACT SOURCE #43220000-NASPO-19-ACS (DATA COMMUNICATIONS PRODUCTS AND SERVICES), PURSUANT TO SECTION 35.18(C)(5) OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

5. MOTION TO APPROVE REQUEST TO ADVERTISE SOLICITATION(S):

(A) ED-26-01 "E-RATE CISCO SWITCHES FOR WEST CAMPUS"

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

6. MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES AND SOMERSET ACADEMY TO PROVIDE ONE POLICE OFFICER TO SERVE AS SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AT SOMERSET ACADEMY SOUTH CAMPUS AND FOR SOMERSET ACADEMY TO PAY THE FULL COST OF \$101,899 FOR THE RESOURCE OFFICER.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

7. MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES AND SOMERSET ACADEMY TO PROVIDE TWO POLICE OFFICERS TO SERVE AS SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS AT SOMERSET ACADEMY NORTH CAMPUS AND FOR SOMERSET ACADEMY TO PAY THE FULL COST OF \$250,678 FOR THE RESOURCE OFFICERS.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

8. MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 11, 2025, AND JANUARY 7, 2026, REGULAR COMMISSION MEETINGS.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

9. MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT FOUR CITY PARKS, AS IDENTIFIED IN THE CITY'S STRATEGIC PLAN, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$605,278.03, THROUGH PLAYCORE WISCONSIN CORPORATION D/B/A GAMETIME C/O DOMINICA RECREATION PRODUCTS, INC., UTILIZING OMNIA PARTNERS CONTRACT #2017001134, PURSUANT TO SECTION 35.18(C)(6) OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

10. **THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE BEING PRESENTED FOR NOTIFICATION PURPOSE ONLY PURSUANT TO SECTION 35.29(F) OF THE CITY'S PROCUREMENT CODE.**

(A) Calvin, Giordano & Associates, Inc. - Operation, Maintenance, Management of City Park Facilities - Non-Renewal

(B) SMG - Programming, Management, and Operations of the Charles F. Dodge City Center and Club 19 - Non-Renewal

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

11. MOTION TO AWARD IFB # PSPW-25-09 "CITYWIDE LITTER CONTROL AND LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICES" TO THE MOST RESPONSIVE/RESPONSIBLE BIDDER, GROW CARE OUTDOORS SOLUTIONS, LLC, IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,164,062.30, WHICH INCLUDES THE COST TO PROVIDE PAYMENT AND PERFORMANCE BONDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$180,338.53, AND A 10% OWNER'S CONTINGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$180,338.53, SUBJECT TO ANNUAL CPI ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE THREE-YEAR PERIOD.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

12. MOTION TO APPROVE THE NEGOTIATED CONTINUING CONTRACTS PURSUANT TO THE AWARD OF RFQ # PSPW-23-20 "CCNA CONTINUING SERVICES FOR CITYWIDE PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTURAL, ENGINEERING, SURVEYING AND MAPPING", IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLORIDA STATUTE 287.055, CONSULTANTS COMPETITIVE NEGOTIATIONS ACT (CCNA), WITH THE FOLLOWING RANKED CONSULTANTS FOR EACH TRADE AS LISTED BELOW:

TRADE A: GENERAL CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

- 1) KIMLEY HORN AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
- 2) CARNAHAN, PROCTOR AND CROSS
- 3) CRAVEN, THOMPSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.
- 4) CTS ENGINEERING, INC.
- 5) CPH, LLC.

TRADE B: MEP ENGINEERING SERVICES

- 1) KIMLEY HORN AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
- 2) SGM ENGINEERING, INC.
- 3) CPH, LLC.

TRADE C: GEOTECHNICAL SERVICES

- 1) UNIVERSAL ENGINEERING SCIENCES, INC.
- 2) MARLIN ENGINEERING, INC.
- 3) KIMLEY HORN AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

TRADE D: STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

- 1) KIMLEY HORN AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
- 2) CPH, LLC.
- 3) R.J. BEHAR & COMPANY, INC.

TRADE E: LAND SURVEYING SERVICES

- 1) MILLER LEGG
- 2) AVIROM & ASSOCIATES, INC.
- 3) CRAVEN, THOMPSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.

TRADE F: GENERAL ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

- 1) SALTZ MICHELSON ARCHITECTS
- 2) CPZ ARCHITECTS, INC.
- 3) SYNALOVSKI ROMANIK SAYE, LLC.
- 4) R.E. CHISHOLM ARCHITECTS, INC.

TRADE G: LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE SERVICES

- 1) MILLER LEGG
- 2) KIMLEY HORN AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
- 3) CRAVEN, THOMPSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.

TRADE H: HYDRO-GEOLOGICAL SERVICES

- 1) CTS ENGINEERING, INC
- 2) CPH, LLC.

TRADE I: FDOT ROADWAY ENGINEERING SERVICES

- 1) MARLIN ENGINEERING, INC.
- 2) CALTRAN ENGINEERING GROUP, INC.
- 3) CTS ENGINEERING, INC.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

- 13.** MOTION TO APPROVE THE NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT WITH HAZEN AND SAWYER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,079,965, PURSUANT TO THE AWARD OF RFQ # PSUT-25-06 "ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR ION EXCHANGE ADDITION TO THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT FOR PFAS REMOVAL," IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLORIDA STATUTE 287.055, CONSULTANTS COMPETITIVE NEGOTIATIONS ACT (CCNA).

A motion was made by Commissioner Good Jr., seconded by Commissioner Schwartz, to approve Item 13. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Aye** 5 - Mayor Castillo, Vice Mayor Hernandez, Commissioner Good Jr., Commissioner Rodriguez, and Commissioner Schwartz
- Nay** 0

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN:

Commissioner Good read Item 13 into the record by title. The Commissioner requested to have a presentation on the item.

Tim Welch, Utilities Director presented the explanation that the city needed to update treatment at its treatment plant to comply with a new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule, with a compliance deadline in April 2031. Mr. Welch stated that staff had completed the CCNA selection process and chosen Hazen and Sawyer from three proposed firms. He noted that the Commission had previously authorized staff to proceed with negotiating the agreement and that staff were requesting authorization to award and execute the agreement to begin design, permitting, and bidding services. Mr. Welch clarified that the item before the commission was limited to authorization to proceed with design services, though consultants might be able to address related technical questions.

Commissioner Good noted that he was not opposed to the item but wanted to discuss broader issues related to PFAS, including regulatory direction and potential litigation risks associated with compliance. The Commissioner raised concerns about what happens to PFAS once they are removed through treatment processes, such as activated carbon or ion exchange, and questioned how the captured PFAS materials would ultimately be disposed of. He emphasized that his concern was not the treatment design itself, but the downstream handling and disposal of PFAS and whether the contract addressed those issues.

Janeen Wietgreffe, representatives with Hazen and Sawyer responded to Commissioner Good's questions by acknowledging that PFAS disposal was a common concern among utilities. She explained that the contract included a specific subtask to evaluate disposal options for spent ion exchange material and to estimate associated costs for the city. She confirmed that PFAS-laden ion exchange media could not be regenerated and would require disposal, unlike the city's existing ion exchange system. She stated that part of the consultant's work would be to review disposal options and identify the lowest-cost solutions available to the city.

Commissioner Good expanded on his earlier concerns by explaining that once PFAS are removed from water, they become hazardous waste that must be managed and disposed of. He noted that incineration, once considered a straightforward option, was now restricted due to a federal moratorium on burning PFAS. He cautioned that improper disposal could result in Superfund liability, creating long-term financial and legal exposure for the city. He emphasized that while he supported moving forward with treatment design, the city also needed to focus on the downstream consequences, including disposal methods, operating costs, and litigation risk. He stressed that his comments were meant to raise awareness and encourage broader consideration of the full lifecycle impact of PFAS removal, not to criticize staff or delay progress.

Mayor Castillo thanked Commissioner Good for raising the issue and acknowledged its significance. He asked whether a short list of safe and workable disposal options had been identified, noting that the city would not be alone in facing this challenge and that many utilities nationwide would be dealing with the same issue.

Ms. Wietgreffe explained that, at present, disposal options generally included landfilling or incineration at approved facilities, both of which would require transporting the material off-site by truck. She stated that evaluating disposal locations, costs, and logistical considerations was part of the scope under Task 2.4. She confirmed that PFAS disposal was an active national conversation with no single definitive solution yet.

Commissioner Schwartz weighed in and asked if there was any information on what the weight or cubic volume of the byproduct would be and inquired if the Federal government had provided any guidelines as to how long the byproduct could be held until it was transferred. Ms. Wietgreffe further explained that pilot testing would be conducted to determine the volume, weight, and frequency of disposal needed, which would directly affect transportation and cost. She noted that there was currently no clear federal guidance on how long PFAS material could be stored on site, and that this issue would also be investigated as part of the work.

Commissioner Schwartz then asked for clarification on the expected timeline for determining how and where the PFAS byproduct would be

disposed of once the treatment system was operational. He sought a concrete timeframe so the city could better understand when it would be able to provide clear information to residents in response to Commissioner Good's concerns. Ms. Wietgreffe responded that during the first year of the project, the city would complete pilot testing and the related evaluation tasks. Through that process, the city would determine the quantity of PFAS byproduct generated and how frequently disposal would be required, providing the information needed to plan for disposal.

Mayor Castillo responded that the city would be paying close attention to this issue as the project progressed and thanked Commissioner Good for raising the concern and prompting the discussion.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated that she did not believe disposal issues had been fully considered when the three treatment options were originally reviewed. The Commissioner questioned whether any of the alternative options would reduce the amount of PFAS material requiring disposal or whether disposal impacts would be essentially the same regardless of the option selected. She noted that she did not recall disposal being discussed during earlier presentations.

Mayor Castillo responded that disposal had not been discussed previously and acknowledged that PFAS must ultimately be removed from the water regardless of the treatment method. He described the situation as a difficult and unresolved conundrum, noting that PFAS removal simply transfers the contaminant from one medium to another, such as air through incineration or land through burial, potentially returning it to water systems. He emphasized that someone would ultimately need to determine a safe and effective solution for handling PFAS waste. The Mayor spoke in support of beginning discussions with other utilities to address PFAS disposal collaboratively and sooner rather than later.

QUASI JUDICIAL CONSENT AGENDA:

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

14. MOTION TO PASS PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01 ON FIRST READING.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01 IS AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMENDING SECTION 155.203 "DEFINITIONS" TO ADD DEFINITIONS FOR RECOVERY RESIDENCE AND REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION; CREATING SECTION 155.535 "REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION APPLICATION FOR RECOVERY RESIDENCE"; RENUMBERING SECTIONS RELATING TO "NONCONFORMING USES", TO ALLOW FOR FUTURE USES; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion was made by Commissioner Good Jr., seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to pass Proposed Ordinance No. 2026-01 on First Reading . The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 5 - Mayor Castillo, Vice Mayor Hernandez, Commissioner Good Jr., Commissioner Rodriguez, and Commissioner Schwartz

Nay 0

Enactment No: 2057

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN:

City Attorney Goren read Proposed Ordinance 2026-01 into the record by title.

AFTER THE VOTE WAS TAKEN:

City Attorney Goren stated on the record that, in his opinion, the Commission's action on first reading was consistent with and compliant with Chapter 2025-182, a statute adopted during the most recent legislative session. He explained that the statute required each county and municipality to adopt an ordinance establishing procedures for the review and approval of certified recovery residences within their jurisdiction, including specific required processes. He confirmed that the ordinance met those statutory requirements and noted that it would return to the commission for final reading in February.

Mayor Castillo thanked Mr. Goren and remarked about state statutes that require municipalities to adopt ordinances. City Attorney Goren responded that the requirement was a mandate rather than an option.

Commissioner Schwartz requested that the planning department compare the ordinance with the city's most recent affordable housing goals and objectives. The Commissioner wanted to see how the ordinance aligned with those goals and how it might impact housing policy, referencing prior discussions about micro-units and unit size standards. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that the city's affordable housing plans were consistent with state law.

Mr. Dodge acknowledged and confirmed the request.

RESOLUTIONS:

15. MOTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2026-R-01.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2026-R-01 IS A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SIGNING AND SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND ASSURANCES TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION ("FDOT"), AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT AWARD FROM THE FDOT, AND THE PURCHASE OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT, AND EXPENDITURES OF GRANT FUNDS; DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO TAKE ANY AND ALL ACTION NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion was made by Commissioner Good Jr., seconded by Vice Mayor Hernandez, to adopt Proposed Resolution No. 2026-R-01. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 5 - Mayor Castillo, Vice Mayor Hernandez, Commissioner Good Jr., Commissioner Rodriguez, and Commissioner Schwartz

Nay 0

Enactment No: 3941

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN:

City Attorney Goren read Proposed Resolution 2026-R-01 into the record by title.

REGULAR AGENDA:**16. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR BUILDING DEPARTMENT SERVICES FOR CALVIN GIORDANO AND ASSOCIATES.**

It was approved by consensus to have the City Manager bring back to the City Commission in the first or second meeting in February a timeline regarding the bid for the Building Department Services.

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN:

City Attorney Goren read Item 16 into the record by title. City Manager Dodge was asked for his recommendations, and he responded that he recommended extending the existing contract beyond its June expiration, explaining that additional time was needed to properly prepare bid specifications. He stated that staff would need sufficient time to develop the specifications, bring them back to the commission for review, advertise the bid, evaluate responses, and make a recommendation. While the agenda referenced a possible one-year extension, he suggested that extending the contract through the end of the year, specifically December 31, 2026, would be appropriate to allow the process to be completed thoroughly.

Mayor Castillo restated the city manager's recommendation as an extension through December 31, 2026, and asked whether there was a motion to consider that suggestion. After repeatedly calling for a motion and hearing none, he asked the commission how they wished to proceed.

Commissioner Good stated that the issue was difficult for him because the city had faced a similar situation three years earlier when the same contract was expiring. He recalled that, at that time, staff had presented a five-year no-bid contract, which generated significant discussion. He indicated that the prior discussions and decisions were part of the public record and implied concern about repeating a similar approach without competitive bidding, signaling hesitation about agreeing to another extension without clearer justification.

He expressed disappointment that the issue was resurfacing and emphasized that his greater concern was using the opportunity to discuss an alternative service model. He proposed that the City of Pembroke Pines consider employing its own building official as a city employee who would manage any outsourced contracts, rather than fully outsourcing services. Commissioner Good explained that building services generated the largest volume of public complaints he received, from both residents and large businesses, and believed a city-employed building official would be better positioned to address systemic process

issues. He suggested that future bid documents focus only on services managed by a city-employed building official and asked colleagues for feedback, clarification, or support.

Commissioner Schwartz referenced a prior workshop discussion and sought clarification on the Mayor's vision, asking whether the chief building official would be a city employee rather than a contract manager, or whether the official would manage the contract. He raised questions about how the chief building official's constitutional authority, described as sovereign power, would affect the complaint chain compared to other jurisdictions. He expressed interest in understanding how accountability and complaint handling would function under this model.

City Attorney Goren clarified that the authority referenced was sovereign power rather than sovereign immunity, noting that while immunities may exist, the law grants the chief building official sovereign power.

Commissioner Schwartz shared an example involving a contractor whose license had been revoked by the State of Florida, noting that building department staff worked with the applicant to keep the business operational despite such efforts not being required by the bid specifications. Drawing on his background as former chair of the Broward County Construction Examining Board, he emphasized accountability for contractors who fail to perform, including referrals to regulatory agencies or law enforcement. He stated he remained open to exploring the proposed model but requested examples from other Florida cities using a similar structure to evaluate its effectiveness. He also expressed frustration with the Tyler system, describing it as difficult for non-technical users, while acknowledging that some customer service improvements, such as instructional videos, had reduced complaint calls. Commissioner Schwartz raised concerns about the long-term impact of private providers on the industry, warning that reliance on photos and videos rather than in-person inspections posed risks to public safety. The Commissioner stressed the need for a robust, forward-looking bid specification that addressed future challenges, protected the public, and ensured service providers were capable of meeting long-term needs. He urged staff to bring the item forward promptly rather than allowing the issue to linger.

City Manager Dodge stated that he agreed the matter should have been

brought forward earlier and acknowledged that, while that did not occur, the focus now needed to be on encouraging the administration to bring the issue forward as soon as possible so the commission could deliberate. He emphasized the importance of moving efficiently while ensuring the commission was actively involved in the administration's thought process. The Manager supported the idea of a workshop if needed and expressed concern about a bid specification being placed on a commission agenda without adequate advance discussion or data from other municipalities. He stressed that the commission should have sufficient information and time to review comparative models from across the state in order to move the city forward appropriately.

Vice Mayor Hernandez thanked the city manager and acknowledged prior conversations regarding contract extension versus procurement. Although he had only served as an elected official for about 20 months, he stated he had been vocal in his belief that competitive bidding was better for taxpayers rather than for administration or elected officials. He emphasized that routine bidding allowed the city to determine if any vendor could provide services at a lower cost, improving both efficiency and customer service. He noted that vendors often became complacent without competition, leading to reduced service quality, and acknowledged that he had received complaints similar to those referenced by Commissioners Good and Schwartz. While recognizing the current vendor had been providing services since 2009, he expressed appreciation for Assistant City Manager Mike Stamm and his team for promptly addressing concerns. The commissioner stated that, although he was not entirely opposed to a brief extension if necessary, he believed the city should establish a precedent of going out to bid more regularly to ensure better deals and improved service for Pembroke Pines taxpayers. He concluded by reaffirming his confidence in the municipal government and gratitude for the staff's professionalism and responsiveness.

Commissioner Rodriguez expressed agreement with colleagues that a one-year contract extension would be excessive, suggesting instead that a 30- to 60-day extension, if necessary, would be more appropriate to allow sufficient time for the city to workshop and finalize bid specifications. She emphasized that anticipated state legislation House Bill 405 should not justify extending a contract, arguing that vendors should be flexible enough to comply with state law and that the city bears

the primary responsibility for determining related fees. She also highlighted the importance of including formal transition plans in all contracts to prepare for the eventual selection of new vendors, ensuring continuity of services and good governance, regardless of vendor performance or unforeseen changes.

Mayor Castillo stated that the discussion was critically important because it helped the commission define its collective policy direction and fulfill its role as policymakers rather than ambassadors. He explained that complaints about permitting delays had existed both when the department was run by city staff and when it was run by a vendor, and that in his experience, the vast majority of complaints stemmed from contractors failing to properly submit permits, providing required documentation, or pay fees, rather than from failures by the city. He cited repeated examples involving roof and fence permits where contractors misled homeowners, and he suggested that technology could be used to notify homeowners directly of permit determinations to create accountability. He acknowledged occasional city errors but said they were rare. He described how the city outsourced building services during a recession after staff declined pay cuts, which stabilized finances, generated savings, and produced additional revenue. He argued that building services were a delegable function that could be handled by the private sector at lower cost, benefiting taxpayers, and warned that future fiscal pressures made stability and cost control essential. He cautioned that forcing a rebid despite satisfactory performance could increase costs and reduce stability, though he said he would support the commission's decision if that became policy, and he urged to give the city manager sufficient time to proceed.

Vice Mayor Hernandez responded that while he respected the mayor's perspective and valued good government, he disagreed on the issue of procurement. He stated that he believed strongly in maintaining a culture of competition through periodic bidding, even if incumbents often won, because it promoted transparency and accountability. He emphasized that his position was not personal toward the vendor or the administration, both of which he had praised for efficiency and cost control, but rather a principled belief in procurement practices. He argued that prior exceptions to bidding were justified by extraordinary circumstances and that, in his view, the current situation did not warrant such an exemption.

Commissioner Good stated that the commission had previously been promised a bid process that did not occur and expressed discomfort with leaving the matter open-ended after another extension had already been granted by the city manager. He agreed that going out to bid was important and recommended that no immediate action be taken, but that at the next meeting the city manager should return with a detailed timeline and milestones for completing the bid and award process. He emphasized that the commission should review and agree to those milestones, which would serve as performance measures to ensure accountability and prevent repeated extensions. He concluded that establishing and monitoring clear milestones was necessary to bring the matter to closure and avoid revisiting the same issue months later.

Commissioner Schwartz stated that the dais collectively had significant experience with procurement timelines and emphasized that even under ideal circumstances, issuing bid specifications and completing procurement would take a minimum of 60 days. He argued that the city manager realistically needed more time than the June 30 deadline and cautioned that, without a transition plan and given the city's meeting schedule, the city could be exposed to service gaps with no legal obligation for a vendor to continue. He referenced prior experiences with towing and solid waste contracts, noting that although those transitions were difficult, going out to bid ultimately resulted in improved services. He clarified that he was not opposed to the city manager preparing bid specifications and a timeline he deemed appropriate but stressed the importance of avoiding a rushed decision that could leave the city vulnerable. He asked whether there was consensus for the city manager to return with a plan at an upcoming meeting, and acknowledged the mayor's response that, absent a formal motion, the discussion reflected consensus and would be reflected in the city manager's notes.

The following members of the public spoke on the item:

Chris Giordano, President of CGA Inc. thanked the Mayor, Vice Mayor, Commission, and city staff for the opportunity to continue serving the City of Pembroke Pines and its residents. He stated that Calvin Giordano and Associates (CGA) took pride in their role as an enforcement agency and acknowledged that there would always be bad actors among contractors. He presented data-backed performance metrics from the

city's system, noting that average turnaround times for thousands of permits were under three days across disciplines, including structural, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing reviews, as well as common permit types such as roofs, fences, windows, and water heaters. He explained that CGA issued monthly report cards to staff and emphasized that turnaround time measured the time from receipt of a plan to an official response, whether approval or rejection, not the quality of the submission itself. He requested that any future RFP emphasize measurable, data-backed results rather than open-ended promises and encouraged the city to speak with past clients of proposers to distinguish sales pitches from proven long-term performance. He concluded by expressing CGA's commitment to the community and appreciation for the opportunity to speak.

Commissioner Good asked for clarification regarding the definition of turnaround time, specifically whether it referred to an approval or simply a response to an applicant. He acknowledged the explanation provided and confirmed that turnaround time referred to the official response issued to the applicant, whether approval or rejection, based on the completeness and compliance of the submission.

Mr. Giordano explained that turnaround time was not merely a comment returned to an applicant, but a substantive interaction in the permitting process. He stated that turnaround time measured the period from receipt of a complete submission to an official response, whether approval or rejection, and emphasized that reviewers could not evaluate plans until they were properly submitted. He noted that delays often resulted from contractor issues such as revoked licenses, missing insurance, or incomplete documentation, which could not be attributed to the reviewing agency. He added that CGA closely tracked responsiveness to the public and measured performance by how quickly official responses were issued through the Tyler system, explaining that this was the standard way building departments operated.

Steve Pizzillo, Chief Building Official, 1800 Eller Drive, addressed the Commission and stated that the building department handled a very high volume of public interactions and noted that extrapolated quarterly data showed approximately 160,000 customer interactions per fiscal year, averaging about 800 per working day. He explained that the department continually worked to improve processes and provided an example

involving contractor insurance documentation, noting that instead of automatically rejecting applications for missing insurance, the department now notified contractors while allowing applications to continue through review to avoid unnecessary resubmissions and delays. He emphasized that the department was doing its best to manage the workload efficiently and responsively.

Commissioner Good clarified that prior comments regarding having a city-employed building official were not a reflection on Mr. Pizzillo personally. He thanked Mr. Pizzillo for his responsiveness and professionalism and stated that his interactions with him had been positive.

Gil Lerner, 1958 NW 74th Avenue, Pembroke Pines, FL expressed concern that the discussion had focused heavily on contractor deficiencies and stated that, in his experience, delays and problems were sometimes attributable to the building department rather than contractors. He described being turned away when attempting to obtain a homeowner permit and characterized this as a failure of knowledge, professionalism, and service that ultimately burdened taxpayers. He asked where accountability existed when mistakes were made on the city side and cautioned against the perception that responsibility always lay with contractors. He also stated his belief that employing a city building official could threaten the integrity of the department by creating opportunities for collusion and argued that an independent third-party provider offered greater impartiality and accountability.

Mayor Castillo responded that the commission was composed of five independent thinkers united by a shared goal of doing what they believed was right for the city, even when it conflicted with personal preferences. He stated that he had never seen the commission view itself as infallible and emphasized that city departments acknowledged mistakes when they occurred. He explained that, based on decades of experience, most permitting issues resulted from deficiencies in applications, though errors by city departments did occur and were addressed. He underscored that the purpose of permitting was public safety, particularly protection of life and property, not revenue generation, and noted the strong coordination between the building and fire departments as a point of pride. He acknowledged the residents' frustration, allowed extended time for comment out of respect, and concluded that the discussion had been productive and constructive before moving the meeting forward.

REPORTS OF LEAGUE AND MPO REPRESENTATIVES

Commissioner Good reported that the Metropolitan Planning Organization had not yet held a meeting and therefore had no updates to provide at that time.

Commissioner Rodriguez reported that the League had held a directors' meeting, during which a significant portion of the discussion was presented by City Attorney Goren regarding recent ethics changes at the Broward County level. She noted that the commission had also received a memorandum summarizing those changes and stated that most of the discussion mirrored information already shared individually with commissioners. She added that the League also discussed activities planned for Broward Days.

Mayor Castillo thanked Commissioner Rodriguez for her report and noted that he had attended a League dinner on her behalf, as she was unable to attend. He stated that the featured speaker was Shane Strum, CEO of Memorial Healthcare System and Broward Health, who discussed the "Better Together" initiative. The Mayor explained that the initiative involved proposed legislation in Tallahassee to allow greater coordination between the two hospital districts, emphasizing that it was not a merger but a request for additional legislative authority to share resources, collaborate, reduce costs, and improve services. He indicated that staff notes from the event would be available for review. Mayor Castillo also reported that he would be attending the upcoming U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting later in the month and planned to raise water-related issues previously discussed by Commissioner Good, with a commitment to report back to the commission following the conference.

Vice Mayor Hernandez recognized Emily Estevez, a Junior student from Pembroke Pines Charter High School who had reached out to him to learn more about local government. He explained that Ms. Estevez had taken the initiative to contact him and that he met her in person at a Pines Charter boys' varsity basketball game. He thanked Emily for her interest and engagement, acknowledged Principal Bayer for his support, and encouraged more students to reach out to elected officials to learn about government and civic involvement.

REPORTS OF THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY ATTORNEY**COMMISSION ITEMS:**

18. COMMISSIONER MARIA RODRIGUEZ ITEM #2: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2023 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN. THE 2023 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE (THE 'PLAN') HAS NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY AND PUBLICLY ADOPTED BY THE CITY COMMISSION. COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DUE DILIGENCE AND EFFORTS OF IMANI SANCHEZ, A HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL MASTER'S IN PUBLIC POLICY CANDIDATE AND AN INTERN WITH THE OFFICE OF CITY COMMISSIONER MARIA RODRIGUEZ, HAS REVIEWED AND ANALYZED THE PLAN.
- MS. SANCHEZ WILL BE PREPARED TO PRESENT HER ANALYSIS, FINDINGS, AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO THE PLAN, INCLUDING OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN THE CITY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK, ALIGN STRATEGIES WITH CURRENT DEMOGRAPHIC AND REGIONAL TRENDS, AND IDENTIFY PRIORITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION. IT IS THE COMMISSIONER'S REQUEST AND INTENTION FOR THE CITY COMMISSION POSSIBLY DIRECT THE CITY ADMINISTRATION REGARDING THE PLAN, INCLUDING NEXT STEPS AND THE PRIORITIZATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR.

There was No Action Taken on Item 18.

Commissioner Rodriguez read Item 18 into the record, by title, and introduced Imani Sanchez, a Harvard Kennedy School Master's in Public Policy candidate and intern with her office, whom she had reviewed and analyzed the plan. Commissioner Rodriguez stated that Ms. Sanchez was prepared to present her analysis, findings, and policy recommendations, including opportunities to strengthen the City's economic development framework, align strategies with current demographic and regional trends, and identify priorities for implementation. She indicated her intention for the City Commission to consider directing the City Administration to provide next steps and prioritize economic development initiatives for the upcoming year. Commissioner Rodriguez expressed pride in opening her office to interns, acknowledged Ms. Sanchez and Camila Leon for their contributions, and emphasized the timeliness of the presentation given the passage of two years since the plan's completion. She clarified that the discussion was intended to open conversation toward potential adoption of the plan, with consideration of changes over the past two years, particularly regarding branding, the City's image, and communications strategy. She referenced supporting materials provided to the Commission and invited Ms. Sanchez to present.

Mayor Castillo noted that Ms. Sanchez had previously contacted him regarding her academic work at the Harvard Kennedy School, which reminded him of his own experience there. He stated that he referred her to Commissioner Rodriguez, confident that she would receive a meaningful assignment, and invited Ms. Sanchez to state her name for the record and proceed with her presentation.

Imani Sanchez introduced herself as a first year Master's student in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School and a longtime resident of Pembroke Pines. She explained that she reached out to Mayor Castillo and Commissioner Rodriguez to conduct policy work for the City during winter break in order to apply her academic studies to her home community. She summarized her review of the proposed 2023 Economic Development Strategic Plan, noting that her recommendations focused on accessible and impactful first steps to strengthen the City's economic development efforts. Ms. Sanchez presented two primary policy recommendations: first, establishing a

clear and recognizable City brand to guide sustainable growth, strengthen community identity, and attract visitors and businesses; and second, strengthening economic development collaboration with Broward County by increasing the City's visibility and advocacy at the county level. She suggested community engagement strategies, marketing investments, and consideration of a full-time economic development or intergovernmental director to better align initiatives with the City's growing needs. She concluded by stating that these steps would support business attraction, retention, and long-term economic growth and offered to answer questions.

Vice Mayor Hernandez thanked Ms. Sanchez for her work and presentation, noting a professional interest in the City's branding discussion. The Vice Mayor congratulated Ms. Sanchez on her academic achievements and expressed appreciation for her effort and insight.

Commissioner Rodriguez added that Ms. Sanchez's presentation summarized a more detailed written document, which included proposed edits to the plan. She highlighted discussion regarding the City's branding focus, noting agreement that family-friendliness, schools, and safety may better reflect the City's identity than wellness and health themes included in the original plan. She emphasized the value of conducting updated surveys and workshops to refine priorities and engage stakeholders.

Mayor Castillo expressed appreciation for the presentation, describing it as fresh, insightful, and valuable. The Mayor acknowledged the relevance of the recommendations to ongoing communications and strategic planning efforts and suggested that City staff and relevant boards review the work further. Mayor Castillo commended Commissioner Rodriguez for leveraging the intern's expertise and thanked Ms. Sanchez for her public service.

Commissioner Schwartz commended Ms. Sanchez for the volume and quality of work completed in a short period of time and referenced his prior experience as Chair of the City's Economic Development Board. He suggested that the Board, as well as county-level partners such as the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, review Ms. Sanchez's work and encouraged continued collaboration. He emphasized the importance of

branding and competitiveness in economic development and expressed interest in supporting Ms. Sanchez's professional journey.

Commissioner Good also spoke in support for Ms. Sanchez's presentation and suggested that she present her findings to the Economic Development Board, potentially through a virtual meeting, to allow further discussion and collaboration.

Ms. Sanchez thanked the Commission and shared that the experience working with Commissioner Rodriguez had been meaningful. She emphasized that her key takeaway was the importance of community engagement in economic development and stated that increasing resident involvement and strengthening community engagement/identity would help take Pembroke Pines to the next level.

Commissioner Good introduced Ms. Sanchez to Aaron Lee, a representative of the Economic Development Board, and invited Ms. Sanchez to meet with him before leaving.

Commission Agenda Q&A to be forthcoming, as / if / and when available via the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/mtkmvsud>

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Castillo thanked the Commission and reported that he had recently attended an event with Broward County Tax Collector Abbey Ajayi at the Sedano's grocery store on 172nd Avenue, where the first tax collector kiosk in Pembroke Pines had been installed. He explained that the kiosk allowed residents to renew their vehicle registrations onsite, pay the required state and convenience fees, and immediately receive their printed registration and decal, eliminating the need to wait for documents by mail. He noted that the location benefited both residents and the business by increasing convenience and foot traffic. The Mayor added that the Tax Collector hoped to expand kiosk capabilities in the future to include driver's license renewals, pending resolution of security and identification requirements. He emphasized that the kiosk represented a positive step forward for the community, thanked the Tax Collector for her innovation and service.

OLD BUSINESS:

ADJOURN - 9:04 P.M.

CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES

Gabriel Fernandez
City Clerk